

hadn't been necessary in the first place. Because the best way to support the men and women of the United States military, I believe, would be not to send them to fight in unnecessary wars in the first place.

The tragedy is all the more poignant, Mr. Speaker, because these injuries are being sustained in conflicts that are doing little or nothing to advance our national security interests. I can't help but think how many military families would have been spared the struggle if we had taken a SMART security approach to fighting terrorism or if we had doubled down on humanitarian aid rather than resorting to aggression, invasion, and occupation.

But as fiercely as I am in opposition to these two wars, I will never turn my back on the men and women who have been asked to fight them. In fact, the more skeptical you are about Iraq and Afghanistan, the greater you should be in your obligation to our troops on the front lines. There's one big solution to the strain on our veterans health care system and family caregivers, and that would be to reverse the disastrous policy that is creating more wounded combat veterans every single day.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better way to honor our soldiers than to end these wars and to bring all of them home—and bring them home now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LADIES IN WHITE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Ladies in White are a group of wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters of Cuban political prisoners. The group came together after the arrests of 75 Cuban dissidents in April 2003. Seventy-five Cuban political prisoners who, 7 years ago, joined the thousands of others who are imprisoned in Cuba because of their political beliefs or for "crimes" that are only "crimes" in a country brutally oppressed by a totalitarian regime of gangsters, by gangsters, and for gangsters. Because that is what the Castro brothers are—gangsters.

Fidel Castro has been a gangster since he was a juvenile delinquent. He became a Communist to give ideological clothing to his gangsterism. Raul Castro came to gangsterism via Marxism-Leninism, after his brother sent him as an almost illiterate adolescent to then-Czechoslovakia, where he received a rigorous indoctrination in Marxism-Leninism. So the brothers ar-

rived at gangsterism via separate paths, but they are both experienced and ruthless practitioners of the most violent and brutal forms of gangsterism.

The Ladies in White experience the tactics of the Castros' gangsterism every single day. The Castros' state security apparatus pays and trains thugs to strike fear in the hearts of all Cubans in order to keep the regime in power. The thugs, the plainclothes terrorists of the Castros' regime, harass, intimidate, insult, spit upon, and engage in violence against the unarmed dissidents and other independent civil society members in Cuba. These spectacles are known as "acts of repudiation." The international press refers to the plainclothes thugs of the Castros' state security apparatus as "civilian government supporters," but that doesn't change their true nature. No, they're not "plainclothes government supporters." They're plainclothes thugs of Cuban state security.

On recent Sundays, the Ladies in White have gone to church, as every Sunday, to pray for their family members who are political prisoners, and the thugs have become more violent. Protected by uniformed state security agents, the plainclothes thugs have spat upon and committed acts of violence against Laura Pollan, Bertha Soler, Reina Tamayo, Julia Esther Nunez, Asuncion Carrillo, Loida Valdez, Laura Maria Labrada, and the other Ladies in White.

I hereby submit for the RECORD the names of 96 Ladies in White who have been actively demanding the release of Cuban political prisoners in recent months.

1. Martha Díaz Rondón
2. Regla Vaillant Planas
3. Mildre Noemí Sánchez Infante
4. Ercilia Correoso Pérez
5. Maritza Castro Martínez
6. Blanca Hernández Moya
7. Lilia Castañer Hernández
8. Ivonne Malleza Galano
9. Deysi Lázara Suárez Martínez
10. Odalys Sanabria Rodríguez
11. Caridad Caballero Batista
12. Zoila Hernández Díaz
13. Gertrudis Ojeda Suárez
14. Niurkis Rivero Despaigne
15. Mercedes Fresneda Castillo
16. Sara Martha Fonseca Acevedo
17. Ismari Salomón Carcasés
18. Tania Montoya Vázquez
19. Yolanda Martínez Guerra
20. Guadalupe Varela Mora
21. Zayli Figueroa Acosta
22. Odalys Zurman González
23. Bárbara Couyedo Riego
24. Miriam Espinosa del Valle
25. Doraida Pérez Paceiro
26. Iris Tamara Pérez Aguilera
27. Mayra Morejón Hernández
28. Mari Blanca Avila Espósito
29. Petra Serafina Díaz Castillo
30. Rosario Morales La Rosa
31. Sonia Garro Alfonso
32. Maylisis Abrahantes Muñoz
33. Juana Gómez Riego
34. Yudermis Fonseca Rondón
35. Crispina Xiomara Duquesne Suárez
36. Dorales Alvarez Soto
37. Ana Iris Vega Rodríguez
38. Lázara M. Caballero Betancourt

39. Marlenis Guerra Martín
40. Nerys Castillo Moreno
41. Tania Maceda Guerra
42. Caridad Sarduy Fernández
43. Raquel Castillo Urquiza
44. Sandra Guerra Pérez
45. María Elena Fernández
46. Yaneris Pérez Rey
47. Roxaida Ramírez Matos
48. Dulce Avalo Díaz
50. Ariela Riviaux Castillo
51. Evelia Hernández Ravelo
52. Georgina Noa Monte
53. Belinda Barzaga Lugo
54. Marioris Moreno Noa
55. Xiomara Duquesne Suárez
56. Mirtha Gómez Colás
57. Madeline Lazara Betancourt
58. Yaquelin Cutiño
59. Gladis Lugo Expósito
60. Dulce Maria Quintana
61. Suyoanis Tapia Mayeta
62. Leonor Reynord Borges
63. Leydi Coca Quesada
64. Noely Camila Araujo Molina
65. Yordanka Peña López
66. Yeni Palenzuela Izquierdo
67. Ana Aguililla
68. Laura Inés Pollan Toledo
69. Bertha Soler Fernández
70. Melba Santana Ariz
71. Reyna Luisa Tamayo Danger
72. Belkis Cantillo Ramírez
73. Alejandrina García de la Rivas
74. Julia Núñez Pacheco
75. Nélida Borrego Aragón
76. Reyna Maria Ortiz Tamayo
77. Milka Maria Peña Martínez
78. Ana Belkis Ferrer García
79. Loida Valdés González
80. Lidia Esther Lima Valdés
81. Magaly Broche de la Cruz
82. Isabel Sánchez Altarriba
83. Yamilé Velázquez Batista
84. Sonia Alvarez Campillo
85. Asunción Carrillo Hernández
86. Irene Viera Filloy
87. Bárbara Rojo Arias
88. Iraida Soledad Rivas Verdecia
89. Amada Evelia Hernández Ravel
90. Catalina Cano
91. Elsa González Padrón
92. Belkis Barzaga Lugo
93. Gisela Delgado Sablón
94. Noelia Pedraza Jiménez
95. Nancy Sánchez Altarriba
96. Mercedes Acosta antiago de Cuba

I also submit for the RECORD a letter sent today by representatives of the Ladies in White outside of Cuba, Blanca Reyes Castanon and Yolanda Huerga, asking international leaders for support in the Ladies in White's struggle for human rights and liberty.

MARCH 27, 2010.

DEAR SIR, We write you as the Representatives of the Ladies in White in Europe and the United States, to seek your urgent attention for the current plight of Cuba's political prisoners and their families.

The Ladies in White are members of independent civil society and the group was born spontaneously, seven years ago, as a result of the arrest of 75 members of the peaceful opposition by the Cuban regime during the Black Spring of 2003. Wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters of these prisoners only ask for the right to see their unjustly jailed relatives freed.

By this means we seek to ask, that as a representative of a democratic nation where human rights and freedom of speech are respected, that you attempt, and within your ability, interest yourself personally and seek the attention of those individuals and institutions that you see fit, to defend these